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did not realize the complexity of the genera with which they were dealing; but the majority relate to the botanico-horticultural species and varieties published by authors who are still living. The great indefiniteness which surrounds plants of this sort may well raise the question, whether a botanist who undertakes either voluntarily or at the solicitation of some nurseryman to give a scientific name and botanical description to some cultivated plant of which he knows neither the country, habitat, natural origin, nor degree of permanence, is doing more to advance or to block the progress of botanical classification. Happily this sort of work is relatively rare in America. In Europe, however, some botanists of rather high standing seem ever ready to undertake this, the lowest type of taxonomic activity, especially in the already much abused groups of succulents. Certainly *Yucca* has had its share of such botanico-horticultural treatment, and it is therefore a pleasure to see the genus subjected to a critical and scientific revision based so largely upon study of the plants in their natural state.

It is to be regretted that space was not found in Professor Trelease's monograph for a more complete citation of herbarium specimens, especially those of standard sets, for no feature of monographic work gives more definiteness and permanent influence to a revision, since by fixing uniform standards in reference collections throughout the world it is of the greatest service in bringing about harmony in classification.

The paper closes with a *résumé* of the economic uses, phylogeny, and ecology of the *Yuccæ*. A series of outline maps is also introduced to show the distribution of the forms known to occur in nature.

B. L. R.

**The International Catalogue.**<sup>1</sup> — The first part of the long-expected Royal Society's catalogue of current botanical literature, though dated in May and with the MSS. completed in January last, did not reach the libraries of this country until the middle of August. Aside from general prefatory matter, this first part contains the well-known classification of botany adopted by the Council, and an alphabetical index to the same, in English, French, German, and Italian, followed by a topographical classification in the same languages. The catalogue proper consists of an authors' catalogue,

<sup>1</sup> *The International Catalogue of Scientific Literature*, first annual issue. M. Botany. Published for the International Council by the Royal Society of London. Vol. i, pt. i. 1902.

each entry marked with a classification symbol and secondary reference marks. This authors' list, occupying eighty-four double column pages, is followed by a subject catalogue with alphabetical arrangement of authors under each principal heading. In the systematic part, each main group is provided with an index to the contained new genera and species. The number closes with a list of the journals abstracted, with abbreviated titles. T.

**Notes.** — The principal articles of the *Botanical Gazette* for August are: Heald, "The Electrical Conductivity of Plant Juices"; McCallum, "Nature of the Stimulus causing the Change of Form and Structure in *Proserpinaca palustris*"; Schneider, "*Rhizobia mutabile* in Artificial Culture Media"; Nelson, "Notes on Certain Species of *Antennaria*"; Reed, "A Survey of the Huron River Valley"; Ramaley, "The Trichome Structures of *Erodium cicutarium*"; and Copeland, "Two Fern Monstrosities."

The *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* for July contains the following articles: Torrey, "Cytological Changes accompanying the Secretion of Diastase"; Banker, "Historical Review of the Proposed Genera of the Hydnaceæ"; Shear, "Mycological Notes and New Species"; Durand, "Studies in North American Discomycetes: II, Some New or Noteworthy Species from Central and Western New York"; Lamson-Scribner and Merrill, "New or Noteworthy North American Grasses"; Eastwood, "New Species of *Nemophila* from the Pacific Coast"; Britton, E. G., "*Trichomanes radicans*"; Berry, "*Liriodendron celakovskii*."

The *Plant World* for July contains the following principal articles: Parish, "Through Desert and Mountain in Southern California"; Idelette Carpenter, "The Protection of Native Plants"; Pollard, "Plants used for Cuban Confectionery"; Hay, "A New Station for the Gray Polypody"; and eight pages of Mr. Pollard's "Families of Flowering Plants, — from Hydrophyllaceæ to Solanaceæ."

The first part of Vol. LIV of the *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* contains the following botanical articles: Meehan, "Contributions to the Life-History of Plants, No. XVI," and Harshberger, "The Germination of the Seeds of *Carapa guianensis*." An article by Montgomery, "On Phylogenetic Classification," though written principally from the zoölogical point of view, deals with questions of the greatest interest to botanists.

Several small papers of taxonomic interest were issued under date of August 6, as signatures of the *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington*.